

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a water-absorbing polymer, ~~which comprises~~ comprising a base polymer A being mixed with a first aqueous solution B of at least one surface postcrosslinker and a second aqueous solution C of at least one polyvalent cation and thermally treated, wherein said base polymer A is based on an at least 50% neutralized acid-functional monomer and said solutions B and C are metered wholly or partly concurrently through separate nozzles, the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker on said base polymer A being in the range from 0.01% to 0.5% by weight and the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A being in the range from 0.001% to 0.5% by weight, based in each case on said base polymer A.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said solutions B and C are metered concurrently through separate nozzles.

3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein said solution B comprises a cosolvent.

4. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein said solution B of said surface postcrosslinker comprises an oxazolidone.

5. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 4 wherein said solution B comprises at least two mutually distinct surface post-crosslinkers.

6. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 5 wherein said solution B comprises at least one surface postcrosslinker ~~which is not~~ different from a polyol and at least one polyol.

7. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 6 wherein said base polymer A has a deagglomerating assistant added to it.

8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 7 wherein said deagglomerating assistant is sorbitan monococoate ~~and/or,~~ sorbitan monolaurate, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The process of claim 7 ~~or 8~~ wherein said deagglomerating assistant is added to said aqueous solution B or to said aqueous solution C.

10. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 to 9 wherein the deagglomerating assistant is metered such that the surface tension of an aqueous extract of the swollen water-absorbing polymer after addition of said deagglomerating assistant is at least 0.065 N/m.

11. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 10 wherein the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker in said solution B, based on said solution B, is not more than 30% by weight.

12. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 11 wherein the concentration of the at least one surface postcrosslinker on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.1% by weight to 1% by weight.

13. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 12 wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation in said solution C, based on said solution C, is not more than 12% by weight.

14. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 13 wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.001% by weight to 0.5% by weight.

15. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 14 wherein the concentration of the at least one polyvalent cation on said base polymer A, based on said base polymer A, is in the range from 0.02% by weight to 0.1% by weight.

16. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 15 wherein the ratio of said solution B to said solution C is in the range from 10:1 to 1:10.

17. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 16 wherein the total amount of said solutions B and C is in the range from 2.5% to 6.5% by weight, based on said base polymer A.

18. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 17 wherein said base polymer A is a partially neutralized and crosslinked polyacrylic acid.

19. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 18 wherein said base polymer A has a pH in the range from 5.6 to 6.2.

20. (Currently amended) The process of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 19 wherein said solutions B and C are sprayed onto said base polymer A and the average diameter of the sprayed drops is in the range from 50 to 100 μm .

21. (Currently amended) A water-absorbing polymer ~~obtainable according to a~~ prepared by the process of ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 20, said polymer having a saline flow conductivity of not less than $80 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3\text{s/g}$ and ~~comprises~~ comprising not less than 80% by weight of particles between 150 and 600 μm in size.

22. (Original) The polymer of claim 21 comprising not less than 80% by weight of particles between 150 and 500 μm in size.

23. (Currently amended) The polymer of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ comprising not less than 95% by weight of particles ~~having the preferred size~~ between 150 and 500 μm in size.

24. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ claim 21 ~~to 23~~ having a saline flow conductivity of not less than $100 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3\text{s/g}$.

25. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ claim 21 ~~to 24~~ having a saline flow conductivity of not less than $120 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3\text{s/g}$.

26. (Currently amended) The polymer of ~~any of claims~~ claim 21 ~~to 25~~ having a centrifuge retention capacity of not less than 24 g/g and an absorbency under load at 4830 Pa of not less than 21 g/g.